ber of whole sale prices (1981-82—100) increase from 223.1 in August 1993 to 409.4 in the third week of April, 1994—an increase of 83.5 per cent. The increase in the prices is mainly attributed to the imbalance between demand for and supply of the commodity arising from the reported crop loss in Punjab due to floods and pest attack. The lower opening stocks of cotton with the mills also added to the bullish sentiment. The speculative role played by trade is equally responsible for spurt in prices.

(c) In order to arrest the rising trend in prices and to help the common man, the Government has allowed the duty free import of cotton under Open General Licence: re-introduced selective credit control on cotton and kapas; and imposed restrictions on stock limits of cotton for the textile mills, cotton ginning factories, cotton pressing factories and others dealing in cotton. The Government had also stopped/suspended the export of cotton for a short period.

Memorandum of understanding on farm Research between India and Cuba

6035. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Cuba have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on farm research; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology signed a Memorandum of Agreement in the field of Science and Technology on 19th November, 1978 and the Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology on 16th September, 1988 with the Republic of Cuba.

Under this Agreement/Protocol, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture has been signing Work Plan with the Government of the Republic of Cuba for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research. The last Work Plan for the biennium 1992 and 1993 terminated on 31st December, 1993. A fresh Work Plan for the biennium 1994-95 was signed on 11th April, 1994 at New Delhi.

Under the Work Plan with Cuba, there is a provision for exchange of scientists between the two countries for training in various disciplines of Agricultural Research, exchange of scientific information and germplasm of Horticultural and Vegetable Crops.

Ineffective implementation of MMPO

6036. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of intra-ministerial conflicts between Ministries of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, the MMPO (Milk and Milk Products Order) is not being effectively implemented resulting in unhygeinic milk products flooding the market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) when steps are being taken to remedy the situation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Agricultural Policy

6037. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a new Agricultural Policy during this year; and

(b) if so, what are the features of the said policy and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b)